In attendance: Raine Brown (FRCOG), Bob Dean (FRCOG), Gary Cromack (SAIC), Melissa Nazzaro (Spfld Comm), Matt Barstow (MSP), Walter Tibbets (FCECS), Dennis Nazzaro (NFD), Lindsay Stromgren (HCFCA/Amherst FD), Pablo Madera (Ludlow PD), Robert Garriepy (Huntington PD), Suzanne MacBain (SAIC), Anthony Gentile (Wilbraham PD), Steve Kozloski (Monson PD/WMLEC)

The meeting was brought to order by the Chair, Melissa Nazzaro at 12:35 pm.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the May 17, 2016 meeting.

**Motion:** Walter Tibbetts moved to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2016 meeting as presented. Matt Barstow seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

A round of introductions followed.

## **Updates from the Chair**

SIEC Update

No SIEC update. Melissa Nazzaro reported that there will be COM-L and COM-T classes held at DFS in Stow, MA. COM-L will be September 20-22 and COM-T will be October 3-7. Get applications in ASAP. Notify Melissa and Raine if applying as we are trying to keep track of western MA applicants.

Matt Barstow gave an update on NextGen 911. On July 29<sup>th</sup>, Boxboro will be the first pilot site to go live. User acceptance testing is being completed. The project is scheduled to move forward as anticipated. The Verizon contract has been extended for a few more months. Text-to-911 is expected in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2017, with statewide deployment with 2 or 3 answering centers. The automatic call distribution (ACD) system is also being tested.

Melissa said that a First Net consultation task team is being organized that will review a white paper to advise the Governor to opt in or out. Melissa is on the team with 5 or 6 others statewide. They are meeting on June 29, 2016.

State 911 Department has released FY17 grants for application.

#### **Project Updates**

## WMLEC Tactical Command Trailer

The WMLEC trailer project was awarded to the lowest bidder. Steve Kozloski noted he has had conversation with the vendor about minor tweaks to the trailer design. The vendor will start the build in July. The trailer should be ready by the end of July. Steve will make arrangements to have it available for viewing at a future meeting.

## **Interoperability Consultant Report**

Gary Cromack talked about the remaining two tasks.

First, he has been working with FCECS regarding coverage gaps in the northwest region of the system. He met with the FCECS Oversight Committee which decided to focus on Bear Swamp. Adding equipment there would add critical coverage along the Deerfield River and at Yankee Rowe site. The plan would be to license 2 new repeater channels. He still has access and permission questions for Brookfield Renewable Power, Inc and Rowe Yankee. Gary is working on getting a price estimate for the project to be reported to WRHSAC. Walter Tibbetts said the FCECS Oversight Committee has a member who will approach the site owners about helping to cover the costs.

Second, Suzanne MacBain talked about updating the existing systems report. A draft report was submitted to the Committee. The final report will be submitted before the contract ends. Feedback by the members should be submitted by July 8<sup>th</sup> so that SAIC will have time to consider and update the report so it is ready to be submitted by the end of July.

## Western Mass Interoperable Systems Update

Berkshire County - No issues were reported.

Franklin County – Walter Tibbets said that Orange tower dispatch connectivity questions were talked about at the last FCECS Oversight Committee (OC) meeting. FCECS will fund upgrades to allow Orange to have full dispatch connectivity. Also looked further at the consultant's recommendations from the study and the OC wants to implement recommendations to improve the current system as any long-term changes are years down the road and will require state and/or federal funding to implement. The OC is replacing GPS units starting with replacing 3 for \$5,695. There are 10 total to be replaced. Two additional projects: changing out the high gain to lower tilt low gain antennas, and rehabbing the Erving shelter due to mold issues. Currently assessing what the FCECS can afford to fund before asking for any WRHSAC funding.

Hampshire County - No issues were reported.

*WMLEC* – Steve Kozloski talked about the trailer mentioned earlier. He also said he is working with federal partners for VHF addition to WMLEC and is looking for pilot site to test. Lenox site issues, microwave aiming issues – working with Motorola to address issues. Warranty expiring later this year, so need to make sure all was installed correctly.

Steve is also reaching out to western MA police and fire chiefs because an entity used WMLEC tower for a non-public safety event. Need to remind users about use of towers. Want to make sure everyone knows that they can use the system, but need to follow guidelines for proper use.

The WRHSAC Comm Drill AAR results will be added as a topic to the July meeting agenda.

*CMED* – Dennis Nazzaro said that Springfield CMED is assigning channels to ambulances. Ambulance radios may need to be adjusted, or staff trained to find those channels. The Mt. Tom issue was fixed. Something was cross-wired between there and Shelburne. PLs may need to be adjusted. There is a statewide CMED channel with a new PL that needs to be added to local radios.

*MSP* – No issues were reported.

### **Budget Review**

Raine stated that, for FFY15, there is \$150,147 left to be spent before July 31, 2017.

## Hampshire Hills 800

The Council is seeking funding for this project through the statewide competitive grant process. If the competitive grant is approved, we might possibly be able to finish this project with FFY15 funds. That would depend on the needs of the FCECS project and how much money is granted by EOPSS.

A discussion about Pelham subscriber units ensued. They are in MSP C troop region. Is there a digital coverage benefit to Pelham until C troop digital built out? Benefit not clear until then. Mobile coverage in Pelham is not great. Someone should reach out to Pelham to ask the question of benefit. Discussion about buying radios for future use. No clear benefit to the Hampshire Hills project at this time due to geography. Leave option open for future consideration.

#### **Requests**

No requests were discussed. Raine received an e-mail from Jason Breault about bringing his request back to a future meeting.

#### **Old Business**

## **COML** Training

COML and COMT training coming up in September and October, respectively. One application request received so far from western MA. There could be a couple more to come from NWMIMT. Others may apply as well. Raine sent out an e-mail with application process included. Encourage western MA applicants and please notify Melissa and Raine so that Melissa will know how many have applied.

#### BCSO UHF/800 Repeater

Last month Jason Breault was asked to update his request to cover all systems. It was missing the 800 system. Now the cost has increased to more than \$37,000. Concern expressed that the GTR8000 unit will not be able to be used for access to the MSP system as a repeater. Committee

consensus is to table this for a deeper conversation when Berkshire County is represented at a future meeting.

### Helicopter Communication – MIFOG

Melissa gave an update on the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. Expect a letter to be issued with a standardized process for all to follow. State is likely to say that if you have a system that works now, keep using it. If not, use the standard procedures. Not sure when the full MIFOG will be released.

#### **New Business**

No new business.

## **Business Unforeseen by the Chair**

None

## **Next Steps/Future Meetings**

The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2016 at 12:30 at WMEMS. There likely will not be a need for a meeting in August.

There being no further business Matt Barstow moved to adjourn. Walter Tibbetts seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by Bob Dean Franklin Regional Council of Governments